

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in conjunction with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination following the Advisory Action mailed January 12, 2007. As this submission and the accompanying Request for Continued Examination are both timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. The Office is expressly authorized, however, to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

In the Final Office Action of October 24, 2006 (hereinafter Office Action). Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0118808 over Kelleher, *et al.* (hereinafter Kelleher), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,625,271 to O'Malley, *et al.* (hereinafter O'Malley). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelleher, in view of O'Malley, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,765,931 to Rabenko, *et al.* (hereinafter Rabenko).

In Applicants' December 21, 2006, response to the Office Action, independent Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 9 were amended to further emphasize certain aspects of the invention. The claim amendments, as discussed in the response, are fully supported throughout the Specification. No new matter was introduced through the claim amendments.

In the subsequent Advisory Action, the Examiner raised an issue regarding 35 U.S.C. § 101 with respect to the language of Claims 9-13 and 15. Applicants have amended the language of the claims accordingly. These further claim amendments are also fully supported throughout the Specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced by these further amendments.

Applicants, through the filing of the accompanying RCE, respectfully request that these further amendments and those filed on December 21, 2006, now be considered along with the remarks submitted on that date in response to the Office Action.

{WP365694;1}

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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